

Message Text

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11
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EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: CI, PINT
SUBJ: MORE ON AYLWIN FUNERAL ORATION

REF: SANTIAGO 1413

1. MARCH 22 MERCURIO CARRIES BRIEF INSIDE PAGE ARTICLE QUOTING FROM STATEMENT SENT TO PAPER BY PDC PRESIDENT PATRICIO AYLWIN "CLARIFYING/ HIS EULOGY AT FUNERAL OF DR. EDUARDO CRUZ COKE (REFTEL). AYLWIN STATES THAT IN HIS SPEECH HE UNDERLINED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF DECEASED AND "TRANSCENDENT IMPORTANCE WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO THE WORK OF POLITICIANS IN THE NOBLE FUNCTION OF INTERPRETING AND GIVING EFFECT TO THE DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE AND PROVIDING FOR THE FUTURE." AYLWIN ALSO STATES THAT HE MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO CRUZ COKE'S SOCIAL CHRISTIAN IDEOLOGY AND HAD ENDED EXPRESSING "THE ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS" TO CRUZ COKE.

2. AT AMBASSADOR'S LUNCH MERCURIO EDITOR RENE SILVA TOLD I.O. AFTERNOON MARCH 22 THAT AYLWIN STATEMENT TAKEN FROM LONGER LETTER WHICH PDC PRESIDENT HAD ADDRESSED TO EL MERCURIO, EXPRESSING HIS DISSATISFACTION AT COVERAGE OF HIS REMARKS IN MARCH 21 ISSUE. STORY HAD DEVOTED SMALL PARAGRAPH TO AYLWIN IN COMPARISON TO LONGER COVERAGE OF EULOGIES DELIVERED BY PRESIDENTS OF MEDICAL SOCIETY AND ACADEMY OF MEDICINE. MARCH 21 REPORT HAD IDENTIFIED AYLWIN ONLY AS EX-PARLIAMENTARIAN WHO SPOKE

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MOSTLY ABOUT CRUZ COKE'S DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AS AMBASSADOR TO

PERU.

3. COMMENT. AYLWIN OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH MAKING POINT THAT HE SPOKE IN NAME OF PARTY AND THAT CRUZ COKE'S GREATEST VIRTUES WERE THOSE OF ANY GOOD PRACTICING POLITICIAN. IN LIGHT OF DIFFERING VERSIONS OF HOW MANY ATTENDED AND WHAT POLITICAL EXPRESSION WAS DEMONSTRATED AT FUNERAL EARLIER IN WEEK OF JOSE TOHA, THIS LATEST INCIDENT GIVES POINT TO LOCAL JOKE THAT FUNERALS HAVE BECOME MOST INTERESTING POLITICAL GATHERINGS IN TODAY'S CHILE.

POPPER

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